Regional Rural Banks, etc. has been set up. There has been substantial improvement in the flow of Institutional credit, several reasons which include limited ability to mobilize resources, low levels of recovery of the loans advanced, high transaction costs and frequent suspensions of recovery have affected the Cooperative Credit Structure. A number of measures have been initiated, including Kisan Credit Cards, in the matter.

Repealing the milk and milk products order

2064. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment propose to repeal the Milk and Milk Product Order which imposes restrictions on setting up units, with large capacity, by the private entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard; and

(c) what safeguards are being taken by Government so that it is not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c)There is no proposal with the Government to repeal the Milk and Milk Product Order (MMPO). 1992. However, Government of India has decided to do away with the concept of milk shed and the requirement of registration will be for enforcing the prescribed standards of quality and food safety and there will be no restrictions on setting up new capacity. The registration shall continue to have a check in maintaining the required sanitary and hygienic standards in the dairy establishments to ensure the food safety and quality of milk and milk products before it reaches the consumers.

ACPC workshop on MSP

2065. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices organised a workshop to determine the best way of arriving at the Minimum Support Price;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of the workshop;

(c) the details of factors considered for arriving at the Best Minimum Support Price;

(d) whether the workshop was represented by all the farmers' representatives from all the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the details of their contribution in the workshop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and the Directorate of Economics & Statistics jointly organised a "National Workshop on Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops" to review concepts, methodologies and sampling designs etc., followed for estimation of cost of cultivation/production. The workshop was held only to discuss the above said issues and for reviewing the Status Reports on implementation of Recommendations of various Expert Committees on Cost of production constituted in the past.

(c) In formulating the recommendations in respect of the level of Minimum Support Prices and other non-price measures, CACP takes into account the following factors:—

i) Cost of production,

ii) Changes in input prices.

iii) Input-output price parity,

iv) Trends in market prices.

v) Demand & supply,

vi) Inter crop price parity,

vii) Effect on Industrial cost structure,

viii) Effect on cost of living,

ix) Effect on general price level.

x) International price situation.

xi) Parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers, xii)

Effect on issue prices and implication for subsidy.

(d) and (e) The Workshop was attended by farmers representatives from the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. They

participated actively in the Workshop and expressed their views on the issues relating to Cost of Production of Various Crops. The farmers reiterated the importance of good quality seeds for achieving better results in productivity of crops in India so as to effectively compete with other countries in the international market.

Constraints of land and water for agricultural production

2066. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both the land and water are crucial constraints on our efforts to expand production in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Govemment have made any study on this aspect; and

(c) the efforts proposed to be made in this direction during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANYADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has conducted useful reserach to tide over the situation. Research studies on watershed management, reclamation of salt affected soils, soil and water conservation and utilization of degraded land, control of desertification, improvement in rainfed agriculture, intensive cropping system, on-farm water management, use of poor quality water, drainage of water logged soils, etc. has helped in ameliorating the constraints on land and water resources.

(c) Research programmes in the above areas will be further strengthened during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Cold and heat waves in Orissa

2067. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cold waves and heat waves that Orissa has been experiencing during the recent years, do not find place in the items of expenditure applied by the Ministry in the Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contigency Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;